REMARKS

Claims 1-14 and 16-35 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 16-19, and 33 have been amended to clarify the nature of the invention. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendments to claims 2, 9, 19, and 33 may be found in the Specification at least on page 15, lines 17-24 and page 23, line 25 to page 24, line 8. Accordingly, claims 1-14 and 16-35 remain pending in the application.

35 U.S.C. § 103(A) REJECTIONS

Claims 1-3, 8-10, 16-20, and 25-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen et al. ("Dynamic-Agents for Dynamic Service Provisioning") hereinafter referred to as Chen, in view of Jacobson et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,440,744) hereinafter referred to as Jacobson, and further in view of Bhatia et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,029,203) hereinafter referred to as Bhatia. Claims 4-7, 11-14, and 21-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen, in view of Jacobson, and further in view of Bhatia, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,519,381 (hereinafter "Marsh"). Finally, claims 1-3, 8-10, and 16-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,6,01,086 (hereinafter "Howard"). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections and requests reconsideration in view of the following discussion.

Claim 1, as amended, recites in relevant part a service gateway:

> "wherein the service gateway includes a control mechanism configured to respond to a request for a first service provided by a service module not present at the service gateway by sending one or more messages to an external source until a response from the external source identifies a first service module within the gateway that is capable of providing the first service; wherein the response received from the external source identifies a proposed service and includes an input stream comprising an encoded version of the first

service module, wherein the proposed service is a service required to decode the encoded version of the first service module."

As presently claimed, the response from the external source identifies a first service module and the response includes an encoded version of the first service module. On page 5-6 of the present Office Action, it is suggested that:

> "Chen also taught a control mechanism configured to respond to a request for a first service provided by a service module not present at the service gateway by sending one or more messages to an external source until (Jacobson: column 28 lines 44-52) a response from the external source identifies a service module within the gateway that is capable of providing the first service (e.g., a problem solving program, see pages 6 line 5) provided by a service module (dynamic-agents are interpreted by Examiner as service modules) not present at the service gateway (platforms are interpreted by Examiner as service gateways, see Fig. 4) by sending one or more messages to an external source (Chen's (fig. 4, page 8 paragraph 3, sections 3.2 and 3.3; and page 4 paragraph 6) agents make request to agents in other ("external") platforms, which is interpreted by Examiner as "external source") until a response from the external source identifies a service module within the gateway that is capable of providing the first service."

Even were Applicant to assume, arguendo, the Examiner's interpretation of Chen's dynamic-agents as service modules, platforms as service gateways, and other platforms as external sources, Applicant submits the present claims are patentably distinct from the cited art. For example, while Chen's dynamic-agents may send one or more messages to an external platform, the external platform does not respond by identifying a dynamic-agent within the platform from which the messages were sent that is capable of providing a problem-solving program to fulfill the request that prompted the messages. Nor does the external platform respond with an input stream that includes an encoded version of a dynamic-agent. Rather, the external source merely identifies a class for a dynamic-agent that is already present in the platform to use to change its behavior. More specifically, Chen discloses

> " Mechanisms to trigger Modification of Agent Behavior
>
> In general, a dynamic-agent, A, changes its behavior in the following cases.

- A is explicitly requested to load program or knowledge objects.

- The operational situation requires A to change its behavior. For example, when A receives a message with domain-specific content it cannot interpret, it will locate, possibly with the help of the coordinator or the sender, the corresponding message interpreter class, and then load this class. Similarly, when A receives a request to execute a problem-solving program that it does not know about, it will ask the requester, coordinator or resource-manager for its Internet address through messaging, and then load the corresponding class, create an instance, and start its execution.

- A is equipped (e.g. in a specific open-server) with some basic intelligence to decide when and how to change its behavior based on its knowledge and the state of carried applications." (Chen, page5, paragraph 14 to page 6, paragraph 2).

As may be seen from the above, Chen merely discloses that a dynamic-agent, "A", may change its behavior in response to various conditions by locating, loading, instantiating, and executing a class. However, a class is not a dynamic-agent. Therefore, even though dynamic-agent "A" may use a coordinator to locate a class on an external platform in order to solve a problem it does not know about, the external platform does not respond to "A" by identifying a dynamic-agent that is capable of solving the problem or sending an encoded version of a dynamic-agent to the requesting platform. Accordingly, Applicant finds no teaching or suggestion in Chen that "a response from the external source identifies a first service module within the gateway that is capable of providing the first service; wherein the response received from the external source identifies a proposed service and includes an input stream comprising an encoded version of the first service module, wherein the proposed service is a service required to decode the encoded version of the first service module" as is recited in amended claim 1. These features are also not found in Jacobsen, Bhatia, or Howard. For at least this reason, claim 1 (and each of the remaining independent claims 8, 16, 17, and 18 for similar reasons) is patentably distinguished from the cited art both individually, and in combination.

In addition, claim 2, as amended, recites features that are neither taught nor suggested by the cited art. Claim 2 recites, in relevant part

"if the first service module is not held by the service gateway, **recursively** requesting support from an external source until the record indicates that the first service module is held by the service gateway"

In contrast, as noted above, Chen's dynamic-agents may send one or more messages to an external platform. However, Chen does not disclose that dynamic-agents recursively request support from an external platform. Applicant finds no teaching or suggestion in the cited art of "if the first service module is not held by the service gateway, recursively requesting support from an external source until the record indicates that the first service module is held by the service gateway," as is recited in amended claim 2. Nor is this feature found in Howard, Jacobsen, or Bhatia. Accordingly, for at least this additional reason, Applicant submits that claim 2 is patentably distinguished from the cited art. As each of claims 9, 19, and 33 contains similar features, claims 9, 19, and 33 are also believed patentably distinguished from the cited art.
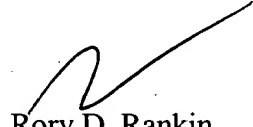
Applicant submits the application is now in condition for allowance. If the examiner believes issues remain which would prevent the application from proceeding to allowance, the below signed representative requests a telephone interview at (512) 853-8866 *prior to issuance of a further action* in order to facilitate a resolution.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant submits that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505\5181-78400\RDR

Respectfully submitted,

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